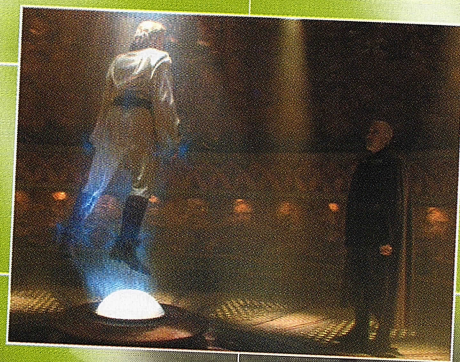


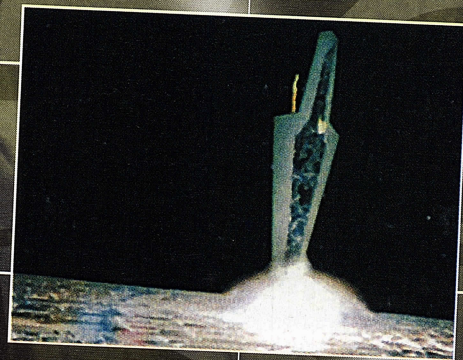
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47

INSIDE:
LUMINARA
UNDULI

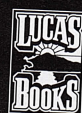


GEONOSIS
PRISON CELL



DETAILED FOLD-OUT PLANS
EXECUTOR

DeAGOSTINI



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BLASTING ITS WAY INTO ISSUE 48...

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How a terrible extra-galactic foe started to sweep into the galaxy.

POGGLE THE LESSER

The highly successful Geonosian leader who managed to unify his people.

WEDGE ANTILLES

The Rebel veteran of both Death Star battles.

OBI-WAN KENOBI

How events on Geonosis challenged Obi-Wan's Jedi abilities.

4-LOM

The simple protocol droid that became one of the most famous bounty hunters in the galaxy.



TATOOINE - MOS EISLEY CANTINA

The ramshackle tavern where many of the galaxy's drifters meet.

TATOOINE - MOS ESPA WAY

Where Watto lived after falling on hard times.

E522 ASSASSIN DROID

The killer droid that incurred the wrath of Jabba the Hutt and survived the Sarlacc.

QUI-GON JINN'S LIGHTSABRE

The Jedi weapon that served Qui-Gon Jinn.

DROID STARFIGHTER

The Trade Federation's starfighters, capable of ground, air and space combat.



'LESS THAN AN HOUR AGO, AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT WAS MADE AGAINST MY LIFE'

22 BBY ASS 1

SEARCH FOR AN ASSASSIN

WITH HER LIFE IN DANGER, SENATOR AMIDALA WAS PREPARED TO MEET JEDI KNIGHT OBI-WAN KENOBI ONCE MORE. SHE WAS NOT PREPARED, HOWEVER, TO MEET A MORE MATURE ANAKIN SKYWALKER

< Y COUNT DOOKU WAS BEHIND IT:

Senator Padmé Amidala was in no doubt about who had ordered her death, but the Jedi would not accept that one of their Order would sanction murder. Jedi Master Yoda chose to meditate on the subject.

UPON hearing of Senator Amidala's apparent death, Supreme Chancellor Palpatine faced the Senate and gave the saddest address of his career. There was uproar at the announcement of Amidala's assassination, and dismay at the death of yet another Senator.

As the arguments raged once again, filling the vast rotunda with meaningless noise, one voice rose to cut through the din – the voice of Padmé Amidala herself. The Senator from Naboo had survived, but her bodyguard and double, Cordé, had not been so fortunate.

To Padmé, it was clear. As the leader of the opposition to the Military Creation Act, she had become a target. Someone within the Senate itself would stop at nothing to see the act passed. Now it was Palpatine's turn to silence the ensuing noise. The vote would be postponed once more.

SENTRIES FOR THE SENATOR

In the Supreme Chancellor's offices, Palpatine met with members of the Jedi Council to discuss the Military Creation Act and the attempt on Amidala's life. All that could be agreed was that the darkness shrouding the Republic was growing. Not even the beleaguered Jedi could do anything to

stop it. Whatever the case, Palpatine himself was determined not to allow the Republic he loved so dearly to be torn apart.

The arrival of the Loyalist Committee brought discussion back to the assassination attempt. While Padmé believed that Count Dooku and the separatist movement were behind the attack, Jedi Masters Ki-Adi-Mundi and Mace Windu could not see their former colleague being responsible for such a thing – it simply wasn't in his character.

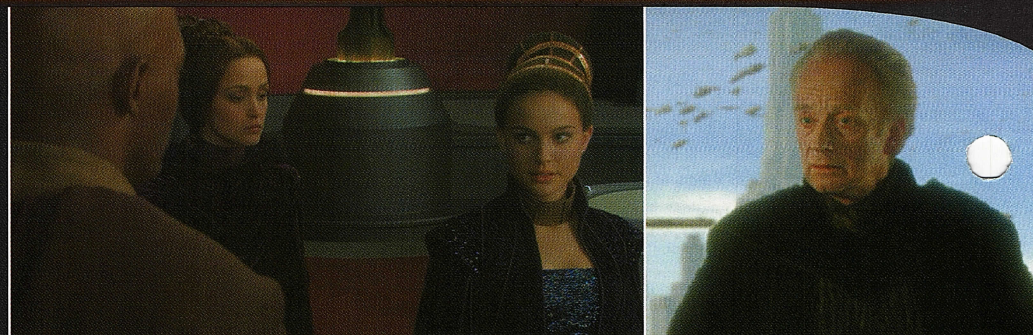
Against Padmé's wishes, she was assigned yet more security. This time, on Palpatine's suggestion, it would be a familiar and trusted ally. Obi-Wan Kenobi, newly returned from Ansion, would be Amidala's guardian. The Senator protested at the disruption more security would cause, but Palpatine overruled her.

Obi-Wan's arrival would indeed prove to be disruptive, but in ways not even Padmé could have predicted. Along with Obi-Wan Kenobi would come his Padawan – Anakin Skywalker.

JEDI GUARD

Obi-Wan positively exuded calm, controlled confidence. Padmé admitted it was good to see him again, but also stated she felt that what she needed was to discover who it was who was out to destroy her. Hovering beside Obi-Wan was a Jedi Padawan whose nervous energy seemed to threaten to explode at any point. It took Padmé a few moments to realize that the tall, handsome young man was none other than Anakin Skywalker.

Anakin tried to sit silently as Obi-Wan explained that they were there simply to protect Amidala, but this was not what the young man wanted any more than the



ADO IT FOR ME, M' LADY, PLEASE: It was only at the insistence of Supreme Chancellor Palpatine that Amidala accepted the appointment of a special guard of Jedi to protect her. She considered the move unnecessary and a hindrance to her work.

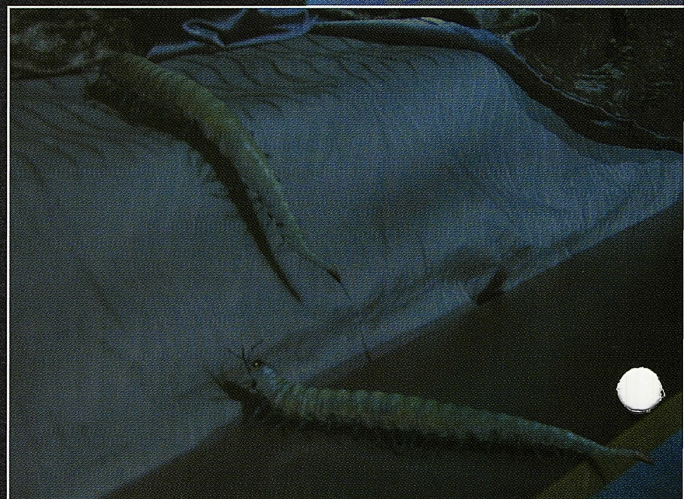
Senator did. Anakin blurted out a promise that he and his Master would try to find the assassins, and this led to a severe dressing-down from Kenobi. There would be no exceeding their mandate from the Jedi Council.

Padmé realized immediately that she had an ally in Anakin. What

she didn't take in so quickly was the depth of feeling that the Padawan had for her. Anakin had thought of Amidala every day since they had parted, and this new meeting had only served to reinforce his feelings – despite Obi-Wan's warnings.

When Padmé came to Anakin later that night with an idea to trap her stalker, Anakin agreed to the plan. Obi-Wan returned from his security checks to be told the news. He could do nothing to change Amidala's mind that evening, as the young woman had already retired for the night, having deactivated her automated security protections. Only R2-D2, Padmé's astromech droid, remained in her room to scan for intruders.

While Anakin and Obi-Wan paced outside, their Force-augmented senses tuned for any disturbance, bounty hunter Zam Wesell made her move. She dispatched a hovering droid to deliver a poisonous cargo of deadly kouhuns directly into Padmé's bedroom.



> KOUHUNS: Padmé Amidala was seconds away from death when Zam Wesell unleashed deadly kouhuns into the Senator's bedroom. Only the sharp senses of her Jedi protectors saved her.



22 BBY ASS3

THAT SENATOR'S GOING TO DIE SOON ANYWAY, AND THE NEXT ONE WON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE I DID...'

PURSUIT OF THE JEDI

DESPITE HIS BEST EFFORTS, R2-D2 MISSED THE SLITHERING ADVANCE OF THE HUNGRY KOUHUNS.

OBI-WAN KENOBI AND ANAKIN SKYWALKER SENSED THEM JUST IN TIME

THE two Jedi burst into Amidala's bedroom, and Anakin was able to strike down the insects before they could do any harm. Obi-Wan saw the droid that had cut through the outer window to deliver the insects and acted instantly. He hurled himself through the transparisteel, grabbing hold of the droid hundreds of metres above the streets of Coruscant.

Leaving Padmé to her protectors, Anakin ran down to the speeder park. It took a moment for him to spot a suitable open-topped vehicle. Gunning its powerful engines, he took off after Obi-Wan, his senses reaching out through the Force to find his Master.

ASSASSIN'S HIDEOUT: Clinging to the small probe droid that had delivered the deadly kouhuns to Padmé's bedroom, Obi-Wan caught a fleeting glimpse of the assassin before he was sent plummeting towards the street below.

STOP!!: Anakin's flying experience, earned in Podraces on Tatooine and garbage pit races on Coruscant, enabled the Jedi to keep up with the fleeing assassin. Some of Anakin's manoeuvres, however, were not to the liking of his Master.

STOPPING FOR A LIFT

Obi-Wan was regretting his rash move, something he mused his Padawan would not let him forget. The droid had tried and failed to shake him off. However, Zam Wesell saw the droid approaching her position with its new cargo, and simply destroyed the droid with a few

well-aimed shots. Obi-Wan began a very long fall.

If he seemed unworried by his predicament, it was because he could sense Anakin's approach. The young man expertly manoeuvred the 'borrowed' speeder and caught Obi-Wan safely. Now Anakin could concentrate his considerable piloting skills on catching the would-be killer.



ASS4 22 BBY

< NOSE DIVE: Having performed a death-defying drop to land on the assassin's speeder, Anakin found himself clinging on as the vehicle crash-landed into a crowded street. He escaped by jumping clear just before the impact.



A TROUBLE BELOW: Obi-Wan was close behind the stricken speeder as it plummeted to the ground. Hurriedly landing his own speeder, he quickly made for the crash site and met up with Anakin as he was about to enter the Outlander Club.

Despite all her best efforts, Zam Wesell could not shake off her pursuers. Just when she thought she had managed to lose them, one of them appeared from nowhere, directly onto the roof of her speeder. In the struggle that ensued, a stray blaster shot disabled the

speeder, and the vehicle spiralled down into the Uscru entertainment district.

Close behind, Obi-Wan managed to snag Anakin's lost lightsabre, and was able to follow the assassin's crippled speeder. He caught up with Anakin outside the Outlander Club. The young

man looked none the worse for his ride on the speeder, and reported that the assassin had gone into the club. The two Jedi entered cautiously, Obi-Wan pointing out that the assassin wasn't running, but rather hiding. Inside, in the neon glow and noise, she was waiting.



> ON THE RUN: Bounty hunter Zam Wesell hoped that mingling with the crowd would help her get the upper hand over her pursuers. She headed into the busy streets, which were full of revellers enjoying a night on the town.

> SHE WENT INTO THE CLUB: Before entering the club in pursuit, Obi-Wan held his eager Padawan back for a moment. He pointed out that a considered approach would reveal that the assassin had gone in to hide, not to run.



"OBI-WAN, I WANT YOU TO MEET MASTER LUMINARA UNDULI"

22 BBY UND 1

LUMINARA UNDULI

CALM, CAPABLE AND RESERVED, LUMINARA UNDULI WAS DEPENDENT UPON BY THE JEDI COUNCIL TO COMPLETE SOME OF ITS MOST DANGEROUS MISSIONS

Native to the world of Mirial, Luminara Unduli's exotic beauty had been known to disarm even the most indifferent of sentients. Spaced far apart, her large blue eyes contrasted sharply with her skin, which was the colour of fruitwood, while – beneath her full lower lip – a series of interlocking diamond shapes had been painted onto her chin. These markings were mirrored by the single tattoos that decorated each of her knuckles.

As was the case with most Jedi in the last years of the Old Republic, Luminara's Force powers were discovered when she was very young, and she was taken to the Jedi Temple on Coruscant soon after. Although rarely introspective, she once admitted to Obi-Wan Kenobi that she occasionally wondered what her birth mother was doing and whether her mother often thought about her.

IN-DEPTH KNOWLEDGE

Although she spent very little time on her home world, Luminara ensured that she had a detailed knowledge of it. Indeed, natives of Mirial might even have admitted that she knew more about their world than they did. Following a terrorist incident near the planet Dorvalla, Qui-Gon Jinn turned to Luminara to gain an insight into one of these natives – a certain Captain Arwen Cohl – and she provided him with a detailed biography.

Years of study and training had enabled Luminara to develop an inner calm and a control of the Force that was the envy of many young Padawans. During her mission to Ansion with her

< A WORSE THAN WAR, I FEAR:

A respected Jedi Master, Luminara Unduli was present at the meeting between the Jedi leaders and Supreme Chancellor Palpatine, when the deteriorating state of the Republic was discussed. Like all Jedi, Luminara vowed to do her duty should the situation descend into war.

CHARACTER DATA

SPECIES:	MIRIALAN
HEIGHT:	1.7 METRES
HOMEWORLD:	MIRIAL
AFFILIATION:	JEDI ORDER
WEAPON:	GREEN LIGHTSABRE





Y > FORCE MASTERY: Having been taken to the Jedi Temple on Coruscant at an early age, Luminara studied hard for many years and eventually achieved a powerful mastery of the Force. Her lightsabre abilities were particularly exceptional, and were outshone only by her striking appearance.



Padawan, Barriss Offee, as well as Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker, she was able to demonstrate this control on a number of different occasions.

Perhaps her most impressive display was a sand dance in which she span and pirouetted – literally floating in mid-air – while two separate spirals of sand twisted around her in opposite directions. In a later demonstration of her Force skills, Luminara ran across the backs of a herd of surepp in order to cut the hair of a mature white male. Not even Obi-Wan believed that he could have matched this feat.

A SPECIAL BOND

Barriss Offee was Luminara Unduli's Padawan learner, and Luminara chose her with extreme care. It is said that the best Master-Apprentice relationships are those in which the participants complement one another. This was not entirely the case with Barriss and Luminara, for their temperaments were similar, and yet they still worked very effectively together.

Over the years, Luminara had

developed a very subtle and gentle method of teaching others, never lecturing her apprentice, but instead allowing Barriss to learn from her own mistakes. Only rarely would Luminara intervene to help guide her Padawan to the right conclusion.

In many ways, their relationship was like that of a mother and daughter, and often Luminara was overprotective – something that could be resented by Barriss. This maternal quality was most clearly seen in the way Luminara talked to her apprentice. Whereas Obi-Wan frequently used the formal title of 'Padawan' to address Anakin, Luminara would often refer to Barriss as 'my dear'.

A GROWING ADMIRATION

Prior to the Ansion mission, Luminara had known Obi-Wan Kenobi mainly by reputation. However, she soon came to admire his skills of diplomacy and the casual way he could put others at ease. By the end of the mission, this admiration had grown, as Obi-Wan's skilful wordplay succeeded in uniting two nomadic tribes that had been warring for generations.

The Ansion mission was not the last time that Luminara and Obi-Wan worked together. Just weeks after completing the mission, Luminara and Barriss were part of a force of 200 Jedi sent to Geonosis to prevent the secessionists from launching an all-out war against the Republic. While many of their number died that day, Luminara was fortunate enough to survive, thanks to the intervention of the clone army.



'THE SYSTEM WILL WORK, AND TOGETHER WE WILL MAKE IT WORK'

22 ABY PAL9



HOLLOW VICTORY

IN A BRAVE MOVE, SUPREME CHANCELLOR PALPATINE OFFERED
TO TALK DIRECTLY WITH COUNT DOOKU AND THE SEPARATISTS

THE troubled Chancellor made a public address, broadcast on the majority of holonet channels, during which he made a direct and impassioned plea to Count Dooku to meet for talks. Palpatine emphasized the common ground that he and Dooku shared – a desire for change. However, he also stressed that change could only come through reform, not through insurrection.

Opinion was naturally split as to how useful the broadcast had been, and also on the stance Palpatine had taken. Some criticized the speech as a sign of cowardly weakness in the face of terrorism. Senator Orn Free Taa, supposedly a supporter of Palpatine, welcomed the broadcast but was critical of the Chancellor for making the move unilaterally.

The Chancellor himself knew he was rapidly running out of time. The vote for the Military Creation Act had been called and campaigning was underway. His opponents, those in favour of the creation of an army for the Republic, had all the funding they required. Those who supported his stance, Senator Amidala for example, could only travel where they could and struggle to make their voice heard by as wide an audience as possible.

Meanwhile, the separatists were advancing their cause. Anson was a key world for them. The planet was at the centre of a web of treaties, agreements and trade routes – if Anson were to secede, many hundreds of other

<> FRIENDS AND

FOES: The beleaguered Chancellor Palpatine even faced criticism from those who supported him. Senator Orn Free Taa, for example, questioned the Chancellor's lack of Senate consultation before his broadcast.





> BAD NEWS: Far from being an asset, Palpatine's close links with the Jedi Order started to become a liability. Anti-Jedi feelings seemed to be saturating the media, with a palpable change in public opinion about the galactic peacekeepers. Palpatine's connections with the Jedi meant that he was affected by this bad publicity. In hindsight, the lack of faith in the Jedi has been recognized as a symptom of the growing malaise among the peoples of the galaxy.

worlds would quickly follow. Deeply concerned about the situation, Palpatine and the Jedi Council sent two Jedi Knights with their Padawans to Ansion.

JADED JEDI

While the people of Ansion ultimately voted to remain within the Republic, the victory did not bring the positive result that Palpatine had expected. Many, of course, welcomed the stability on the planet. However, the fact that the Jedi had been involved created more difficulties than they had solved.

Palpatine had never made any secret of his strong contacts with the Jedi Temple. In the past, such a thing would have brought praise – a chancellor seeking the wise guidance of the Jedi was seen as a good thing. In the troubled years of Palpatine's rule, however, the Jedi had fallen from favour.

The policy of the Jedi taking in very young children whose potential within the Force had been recognized was being challenged openly on holonet chat shows and in gossip columns. Other pundits argued that the Jedi were becoming overstretched. The Jedi were perceived as aloof and uncaring. If they succeeded at anything, they were seen to be operating without a mandate, beyond the law that governed everyone else. Worse still, the Jedi were seen as mind-wizards working to a sinister agenda of their own.

Of course, all of this reflected badly on Chancellor Palpatine. The Jedi success on Ansion was tainted when the media chose to focus on the accusations made by one of the Padawans that a local Hutt business leader had been behind the plot to kill the Jedi and push the Ansion people into voting for the separatist position.

It seemed that, no matter what they did or said, Palpatine and the Jedi just couldn't win.



'I TURN TO SOME OF THE MOST TRUSTED, SKILLED AND INTELLIGENT MINDS THAT THE REPUBLIC HAS TO OFFER'

22 ABY PAL 11

FOR THE REPUBLIC

THE STRAIN ON CHANCELLOR PALPATINE WAS TELLING. HOWEVER, HIS ENERGY IN PURSUIT OF HIS GOALS NEVER FLAGGED, AND THE PACE HE SET HIMSELF WAS UNRELENTING

SOME seven weeks before the vote on the Military Creation Act, Supreme Chancellor Palpatine instituted a number of key changes. The Loyalist Committee was the most public of those changes, and far less controversial than the creation of the Red Guard, who accompanied the Chancellor wherever he went.

The ten Senators who made up the Committee were not chosen only from those who openly supported Palpatine. Indeed, they came from both sides of the debate on the Republic Army. They were a think tank, intended to come up with ways to negotiate and otherwise deal with the separatists. Many criticized the committee, unfairly calling it a face-

saving act after the snub Dooku delivered by not responding to the plea to negotiate. Others accused Palpatine of creating a shadow government. When one of the Senators in the Loyalist Committee turned out to be a separatist, Palpatine seemed to be floundering once more.

Security was increasingly a concern, particularly after a number of assassinations claimed Senators' lives. In the week that Senator Aks Moe of the Loyalist Committee was killed in a separatist bombing, Palpatine's director of security, Armand Isard, was given leave by the committee to launch sweeping reforms of the security services. Suddenly, the introduction of the Red Guard seemed like a very good idea indeed.

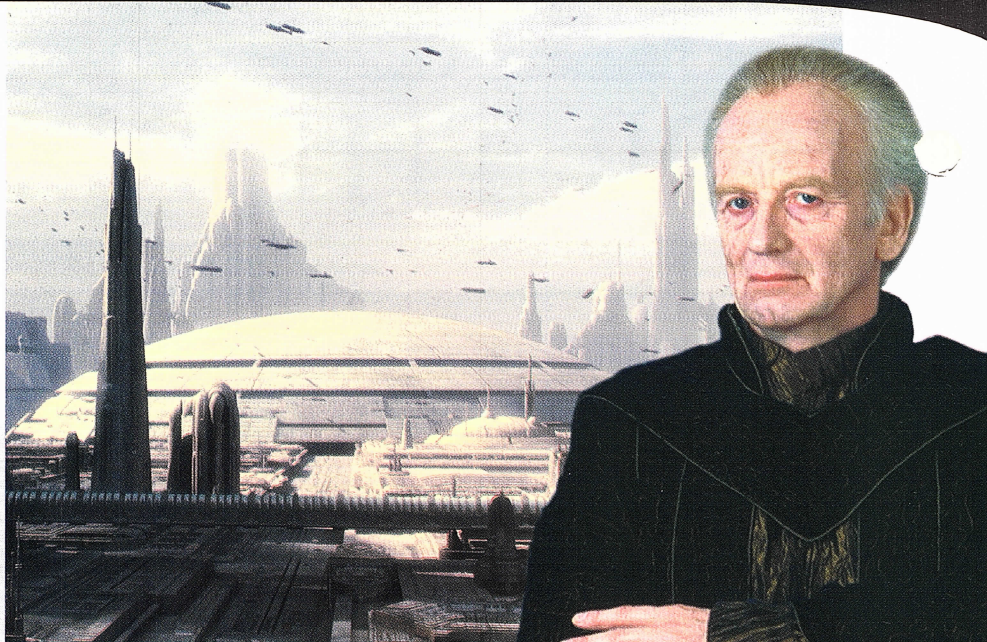


<SHOW OF FORCE:

Palpatine took personal charge of the new Red Guard, which supplemented the Blue Guard assigned to protect the Senate. This was a move that caused widespread consternation.

>TROUBLED CITY:

Growing unrest within the galactic capital, especially around the Senate building, made it unsafe for politicians, and there was a rash of assassinations.

**THE VOTE APPROACHES**

On the evening before the vote on the Military Creation Act, Supreme Chancellor Palpatine addressed the Republic.

Though he was as positive as he could be, his words betrayed his thoughts. Palpatine emphasized his commitment to negotiation, insisting that his administration would adhere to a path 'of civility and intelligent discourse'. Chancellor Palpatine had always stated that he supported democracy, and he stood by this. Should the people of the Republic desire an army for their protection, such an institution would be used to assist existing organizations, such as the Jedi, rather than being used to start a war.

All of Palpatine's energy seemed to have been snatched away when he addressed the Senate the following morning. The Chancellor looked fragile and weak as he told the delegates of another tragedy, another assassination. The loss of Senator Amidala of Naboo was a personal tragedy, not just a political blow.

Grief turned to joy and a little confusion when, amidst the riot of reverberating rhetoric, Senator Amidala's voice echoed out. She had survived the attempt on her life, and again spoke out against the creation of an army.

Palpatine met with the Jedi Council later that day, the Senate having been adjourned while security concerns were addressed. As he awaited the arrival of Amidala and the Loyalist Committee, the Supreme Chancellor restated his commitment to negotiation, though he admitted that the vote on the Military Creation Act could no longer be put off.

Though he seemed determined and steadfast, those around him were aware that even Palpatine knew that the creation of an army for the Republic would more than likely lead to war. What then for Palpatine's beloved Republic?

'PLEASE LEAVE. YOU ARE DISTURBING THE BABY'

27 ABY MAN5



MANUFACTURERS OF FAMILY AND LEISURE DROIDS

ACCUTRONICS

ORIGINALLY DROIDS WERE BUILT TO FULFIL ONLY VERY PRACTICAL FUNCTIONS. HOWEVER, OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF CENTURIES THEY HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY PREVALENT IN HOUSEHOLDS AND IN THE GALAXY'S LEISURE INDUSTRY

For hundreds of years, galactic citizens regarded droids with a deep suspicion and unease. While they understood how these automatons served to make their lives easier, they still wanted droids to remain at arm's length.

ACCUTRONICS

Accutronics – a subsidiary of Industrial Automaton (IA) – was not dispirited by this attitude. Rather, the company saw it as an opportunity to create a whole new droid market. Its first forays into this area took place over a

century ago, and resulted in the creation of the Model E droid. Designed to be a playmate for young children, these adorable little mechanoids quickly became popular, gaining the trust and affection of parents and children alike.

The success of the Model E had two immediate consequences. Firstly, it allowed Accutronics to step out of IA's shadow and assert its independence. Secondly, it gave the company's design team the confidence to be even more

ambitious and develop a nanny droid. Aimed at wealthy families where both parents worked, the resulting automaton was an instant hit, with variations on the model even being used by celebrities and high-powered politicians such as Leia Organa Solo.

LOVOLAN

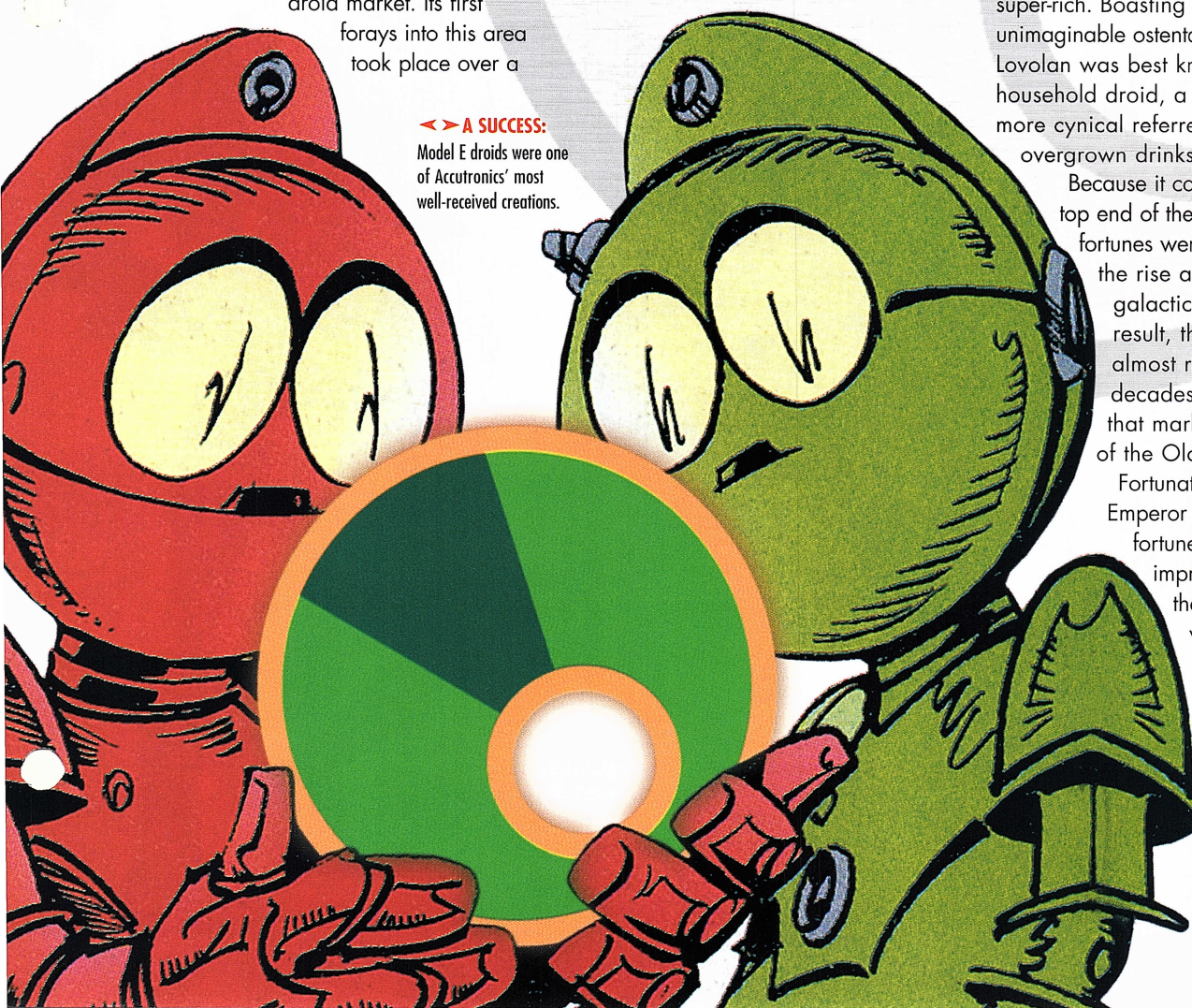
A relatively small outfit, Lovolan's products were not aimed at the merely wealthy – they were targeted at the super-rich. Boasting a product range of unimaginable ostentation and expense, Lovolan was best known for its R10 household droid, a model that the more cynical referred to as an overgrown drinks trolley.

Because it concentrated on the top end of the market, Lovolan's fortunes were bound up with the rise and fall of the galactic economy. As a result, the company was almost ruined by the decades-long recession that marked the last years of the Old Republic.

Fortunately, with the rise of Emperor Palpatine, Lovolan's fortunes also began to improve. Indeed, it was the Emperor himself who commissioned the R10 droid, intending it for use on the Coruscant resort moon of Hesperidium.

<>> A SUCCESS:

Model E droids were one of Accutronics' most well-received creations.



LEISUREMECH ENTERPRISES

Based in the Corporate Sector, LeisureMech was less domestically focused than Accutronics or Lovolan, but it was certainly no less successful.

LeisureMech concentrated on cheap and cheerful droids for the seedier end of the galaxy's leisure industry, and its products could be found in every squalid gambling den from the Core Worlds to the Outer Rim. There you will always find an RH7 CardShark in operation, presiding over the sabacc tables, dealing cards and watching out for cheats, while behind the bar you are bound to see one of LeisureMech's C5 bartenders throwing together the most deadly of concoctions in no time at all.

For a while, LeisureMech also had a subsidiary operation that focused on the production of

security droids such as the S-EP1. So successful was this subsidiary that LeisureMech's executives decided to sell it off, making a small fortune for themselves in the process. Now known as Ulban Arms, this offshoot has continued to thrive in the ultra-competitive droid marketplace.

TRANG ROBOTICS

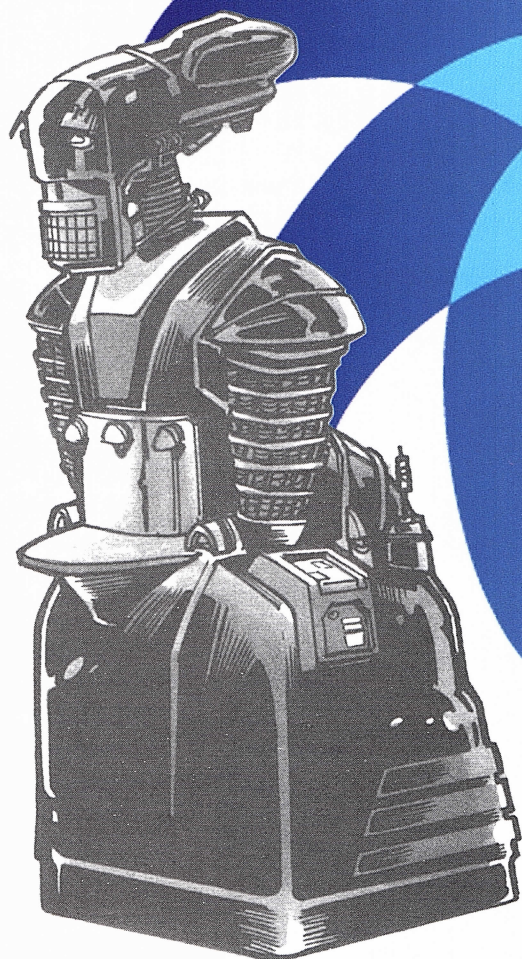
Unlike most other droid manufacturers, Trang Robotics – an old and reputable organization – has remained a family firm. Over the years

a number of organizations have tried to purchase it, only to be turned away.

The success of Trang is most evident when you enter its lavish head office in the Almanian System, on the inhabited moon of Drewwa. Best known for its duellist elite droid, whose grace and timbre was the envy of the company's competitors, Trang took pride in hand-crafting just 4,000 of these droids each year, with each one carrying the princely price tag of 275,000 credits.

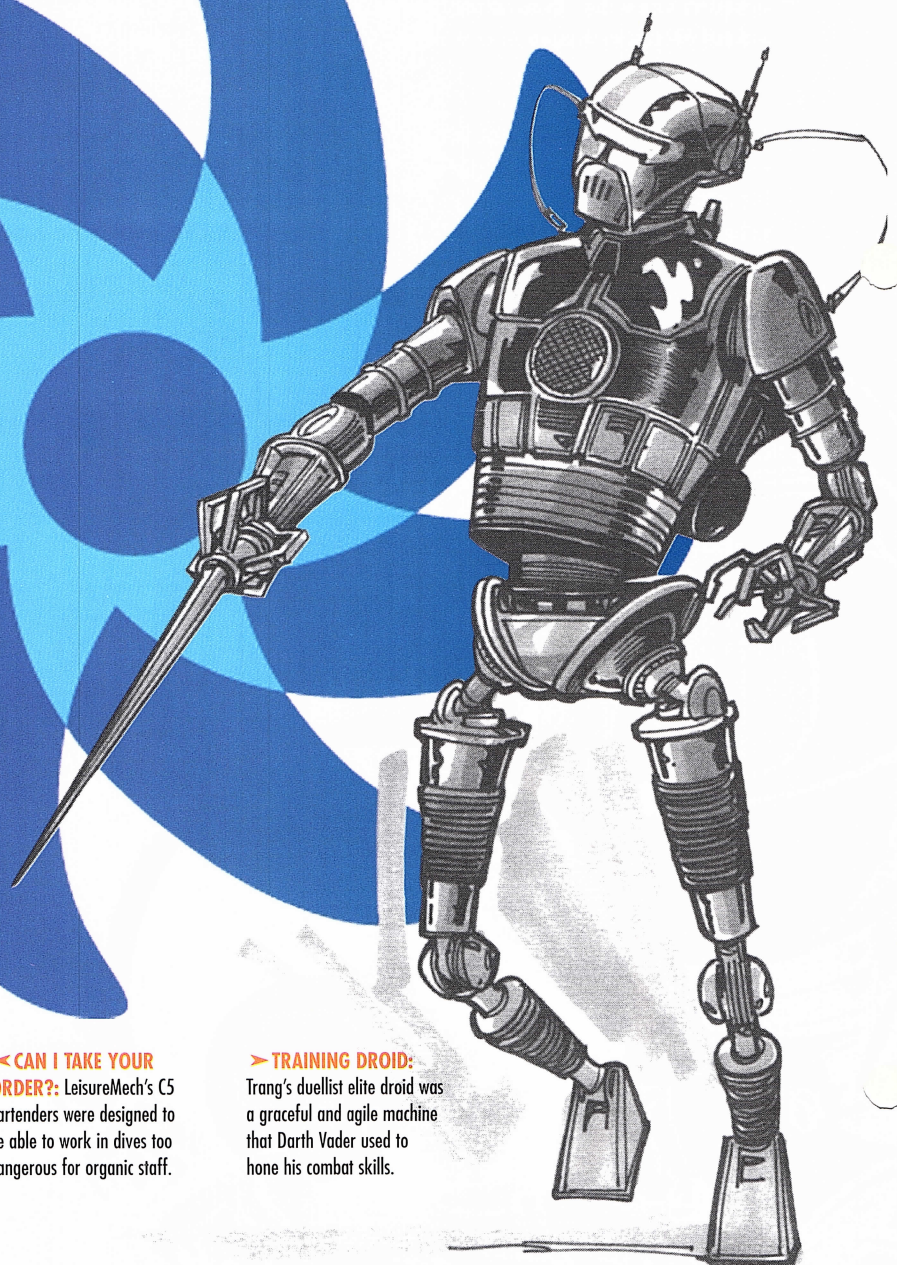
Wishing to stand above galactic politics, Trang's owners played down the fact that a number of these droids had been purchased by Darth Vader for training purposes.

LEISUREMECH ENTERPRISES



< CAN I TAKE YOUR ORDER?: LeisureMech's C5 bartenders were designed to be able to work in dives too dangerous for organic staff.

> TRAINING DROID: Trang's duellist elite droid was a graceful and agile machine that Darth Vader used to hone his combat skills.



"STAY WITH THE SHIP"

TO THE RESCUE

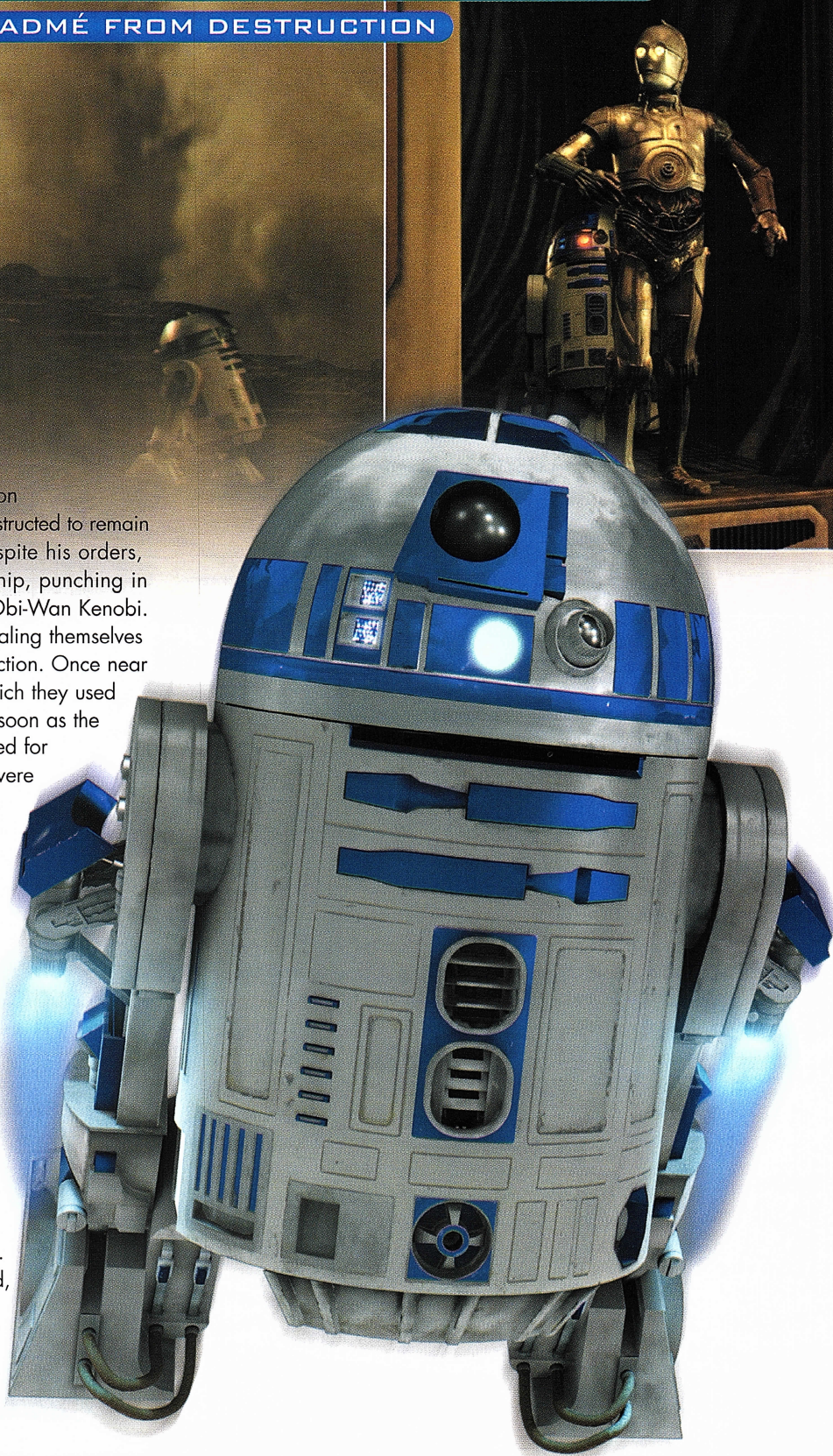
DURING THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE BATTLE OF GEONOSIS, R2-D2 USED HIS BRAVERY, QUICK THINKING AND INITIATIVE TO SAVE BOTH C-3PO AND PADMÉ FROM DESTRUCTION

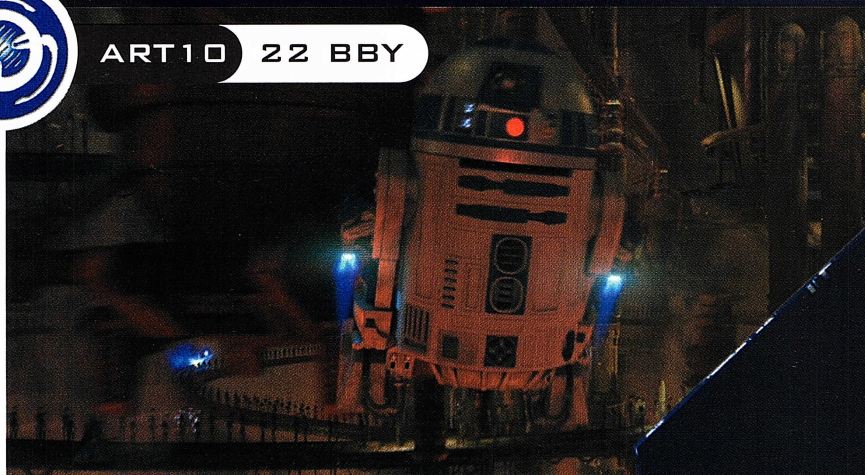
ALTHOUGH R2-D2 might have expected a period of inactivity on Tatooine – where Anakin had been instructed to remain by the Jedi Council – this was not to be. Despite his orders, Anakin was back at the controls of the starship, punching in a course for Geonosis to rescue his Master, Obi-Wan Kenobi. They approached the planet cautiously, concealing themselves behind the nearby asteroid ring to avoid detection. Once near the surface, they headed for a steam vent, which they used to enter an underground factory complex. As soon as the ship touched down, Padmé and Anakin headed for the landing ramp, while Artoo and Threepio were instructed to stay with the craft.

In spite of C-3PO's protests, Artoo began rolling towards the exit. When the protocol droid objected, the little astromech told him to mind his own business, and headed down the landing ramp. Desperate not to be left alone, C-3PO followed Artoo into the alien complex.

DANGER IN THE FOUNDRY

Entering an immense factory, the two droids found themselves on a precarious ledge that overlooked moving conveyors where, as C-3PO put it, machines were creating machines. Threepio blocked Artoo's way, telling him to calm down, but the astromech realized that something was wrong. Not bothering to argue, Artoo pushed forward, and Threepio lost his footing and fell screaming on to the conveyors. With no time to stop for his fellow droid, Artoo ignited his





A RESCUER DROID: R2-D2 was famous for his fearless devotion to his mistress, Padmé. Without any of his companion C-3PO's apprehension, he flew into the heart of the dangerous droid foundry on Geonosis to rescue the endangered Senator.

manoeuvring jets and flew across the production line to a distant control console – he had spotted Padmé and was on a desperate pursuit. Although Anakin was battling valiantly to save her, Padmé had fallen into a large, empty vat that was about to be filled with molten metal, and Anakin was too far away to reach her in time.

Artoo was near enough to do something about the situation, and had spotted a way to save his mistress. Working frantically, he linked to the central computer via his controller arm, scrolling rapidly through millions of files. Just in time, he found the right link for Padmé's vat and ordered it to dump the terrified Senator just as the molten metal was about to pour over her. Padmé was then captured by a band of Geonosians, but at least Artoo had saved her from a terrible death.

PRISONERS OF POGGLE

Artoo had also sacrificed his own liberty and, fitted with a restraining bolt, was put to work at a console in a large assembly hall. The little droid had been there for a few hours, when he was reunited briefly with C-3PO. The protocol droid had been caught up in the battle droid production line after he tumbled on to the conveyor. His head had become separated from his body and had been grafted onto the body of a battle droid. However, with his original consciousness intact, Threepio had failed in his first drill session and was being led away for reprogramming.

On entering the assembly hall, Threepio spotted Artoo and almost without thinking, brought up the battle droid's blaster and shot the restraining bolt away from his friend. The guards reacted angrily to the shot but failed to notice that Artoo was now free. As soon as they led Threepio away to the yard, Artoo rolled away from his console and headed for freedom.

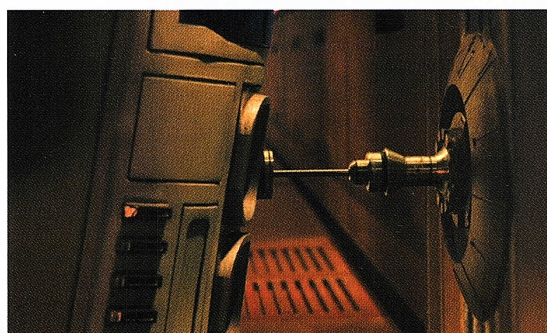
Plugging into another computer outlet, R2-D2 downloaded a schematic that enabled him to negotiate the huge factory complex without difficulty. He also learnt that there was to be a triple execution and could guess that the victims would be his companions. At any rate, the event proved a useful diversion, and he wandered through the droid factory trying to draw as little attention to himself as possible.



<UPLIFTING:

R2 droids were fitted with a pair of rocket jets for short flights. Artoo used his to fly to the rescue of Padmé as she was about to be obliterated by molten metal.

Y HACKER HERO: Artoo accessed a computer port in order to reprogram the factory machines that were about to kill Padmé.



'ARTOO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?'

22 BBY ART 11

INTO BATTLE

DEPENDABLE AS USUAL, AND WITHOUT HESITATING

TO CONSIDER THE RISK TO HIS OWN CIRCUITS, R2-D2

HURRIED INTO THE MIDST OF THE BATTLE TO HELP C-3PO

UNKNOWN to R2-D2, the planned execution of Anakin, Obi-Wan and Padmé had turned into a pitched battle. The prisoners had escaped their fate and about 200 Jedi Knights had arrived to lend their aid. As more and more battle droids were thrown into the fight, the two droids that had been given C-3PO's head and body entered the arena. Artoo arrived there just in time to witness the prone form of the droid with Threepio's head being buried under one of its fallen comrades.

The plucky astromech droid rolled into the arena, weaving his way through the battle, heading for his fallen friend. Threepio was surprised to see Artoo when he finally reached the stricken protocol droid, but Artoo had no time to explain. Without a word, he fired a suction-cup grapnel from a compartment



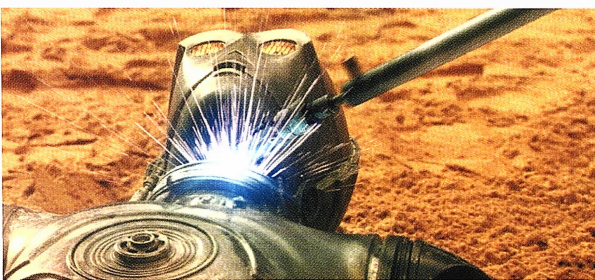
in his main shell, attaching it to his friend's head. As R2-D2 dragged hard, C-3PO protested loudly. Artoo continued regardless, tugging the golden head free in a shower of sparks. He then dragged it over to where Threepio's own body had fallen. Extracting his welding arm, he began reattaching the two parts, deaf to Threepio's flustered

A > TRANSPLANT:

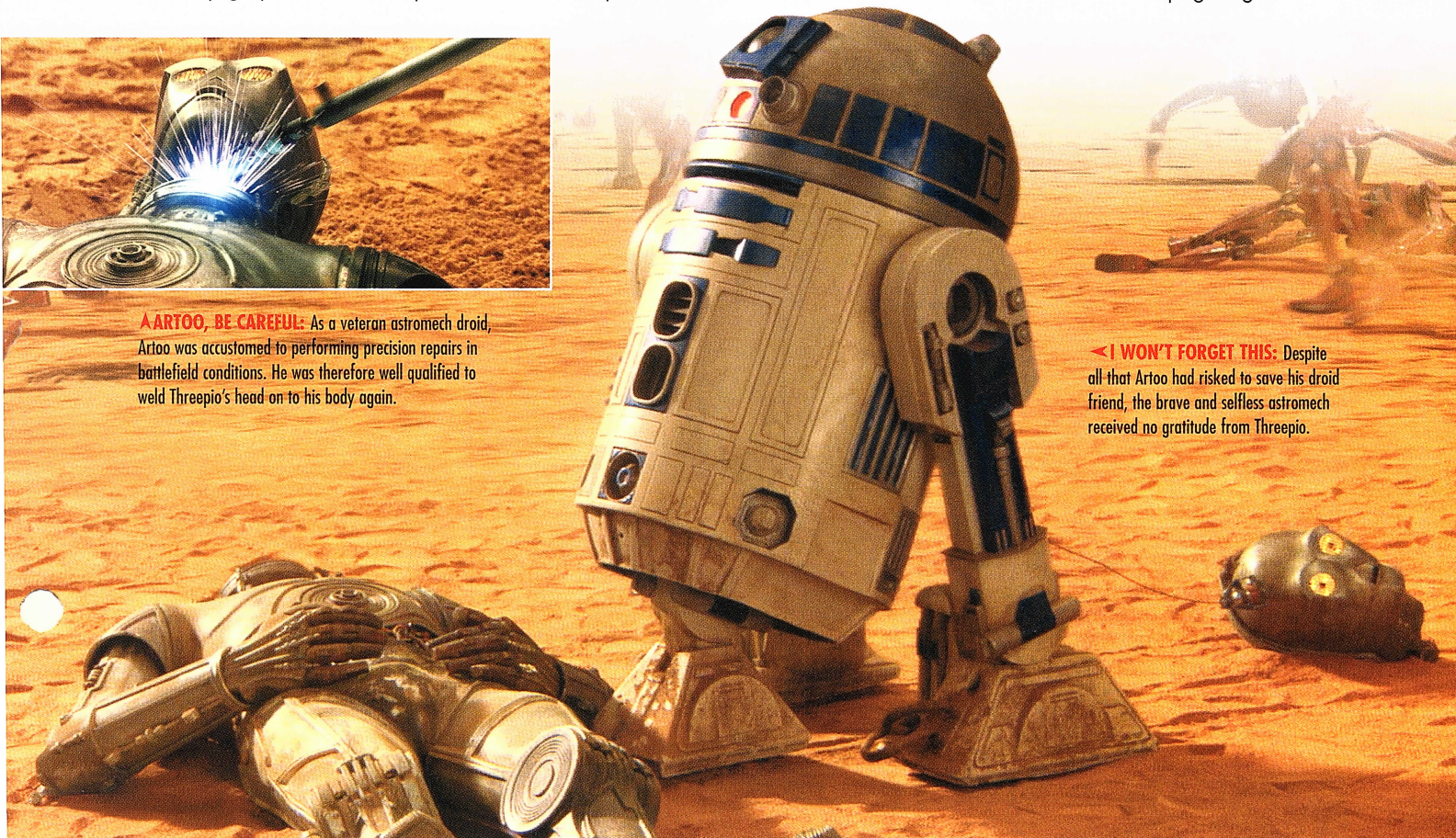
Despite C-3PO's protests, Artoo carried out emergency battlefield surgery, reuniting Threepio's head and body.



protests. After some minutes of careful welding, the job was complete. Artoo informed C-3PO, who was delighted to be able to stand upright again.



AARTOO, BE CAREFUL: As a veteran astromech droid, Artoo was accustomed to performing precision repairs in battlefield conditions. He was therefore well qualified to weld Threepio's head on to his body again.



< I WON'T FORGET THIS: Despite all that Artoo had risked to save his droid friend, the brave and selfless astromech received no gratitude from Threepio.



R2-D2

ART12 22 BBY

> OH, ARTOO, YOU'VE PUT ME BACK TOGETHER:

In no time at all, Artoo had his old companion up and running as normal. Threepio immediately felt like his old self again and began complaining.



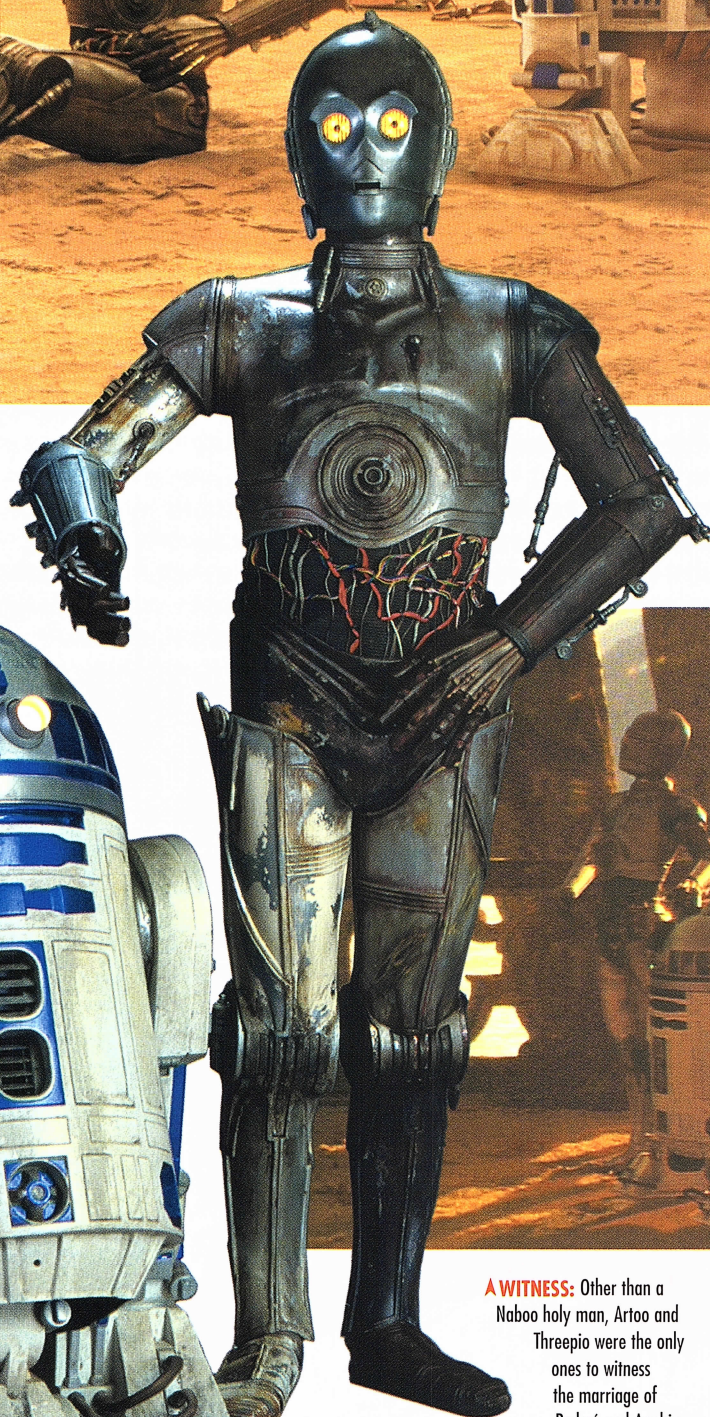
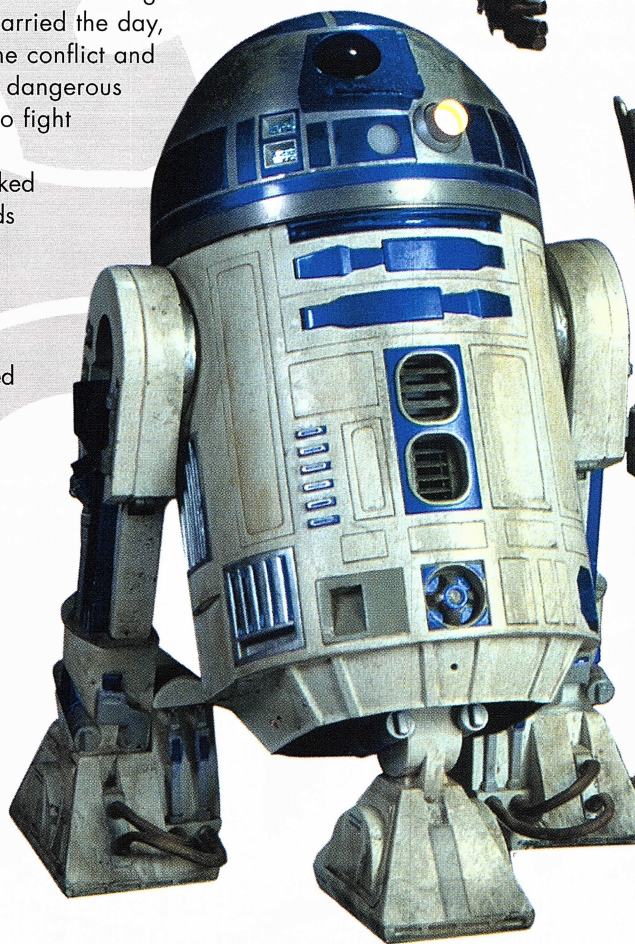
BATTLE VETERANS

The fierce battle raging around them was already drawing to a close, thanks to the arrival of an army of clone troopers who weighed in on the side of the Republic. Although the Republic's forces carried the day, many Jedi fell in the conflict and some of their most dangerous enemies escaped to fight another day.

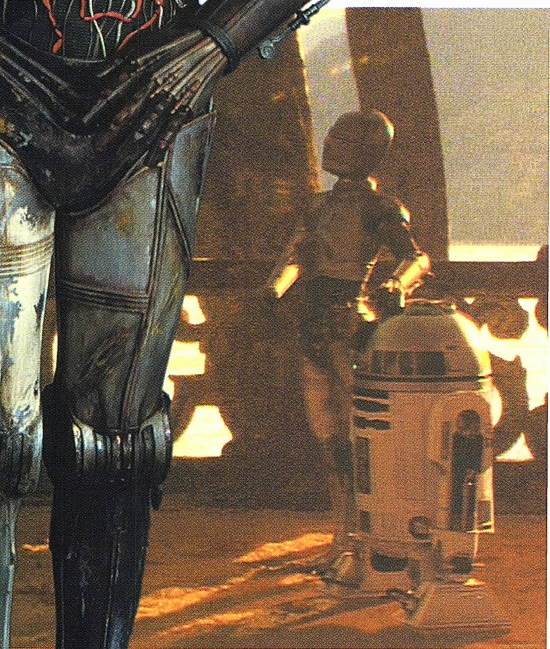
The situation looked grave, but the droids were soon reunited with their owners. More happiness followed as R2-D2 and C-3PO witnessed the marriage of Anakin and Padmé on Naboo. The dangers facing the Republic seemed far away.

> FRIENDS AGAIN:

Following Artoo's brave surgery on Threepio, the two droids took up together once more, rejoining Anakin and Padmé for their return trip to Naboo.



▲ WITNESS: Other than a Naboo holy man, Artoo and Threepio were the only ones to witness the marriage of Padmé and Anakin.



'THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME, I ASSURE YOU. I PROMISE YOU I WILL PETITION IMMEDIATELY TO HAVE YOU SET FREE'

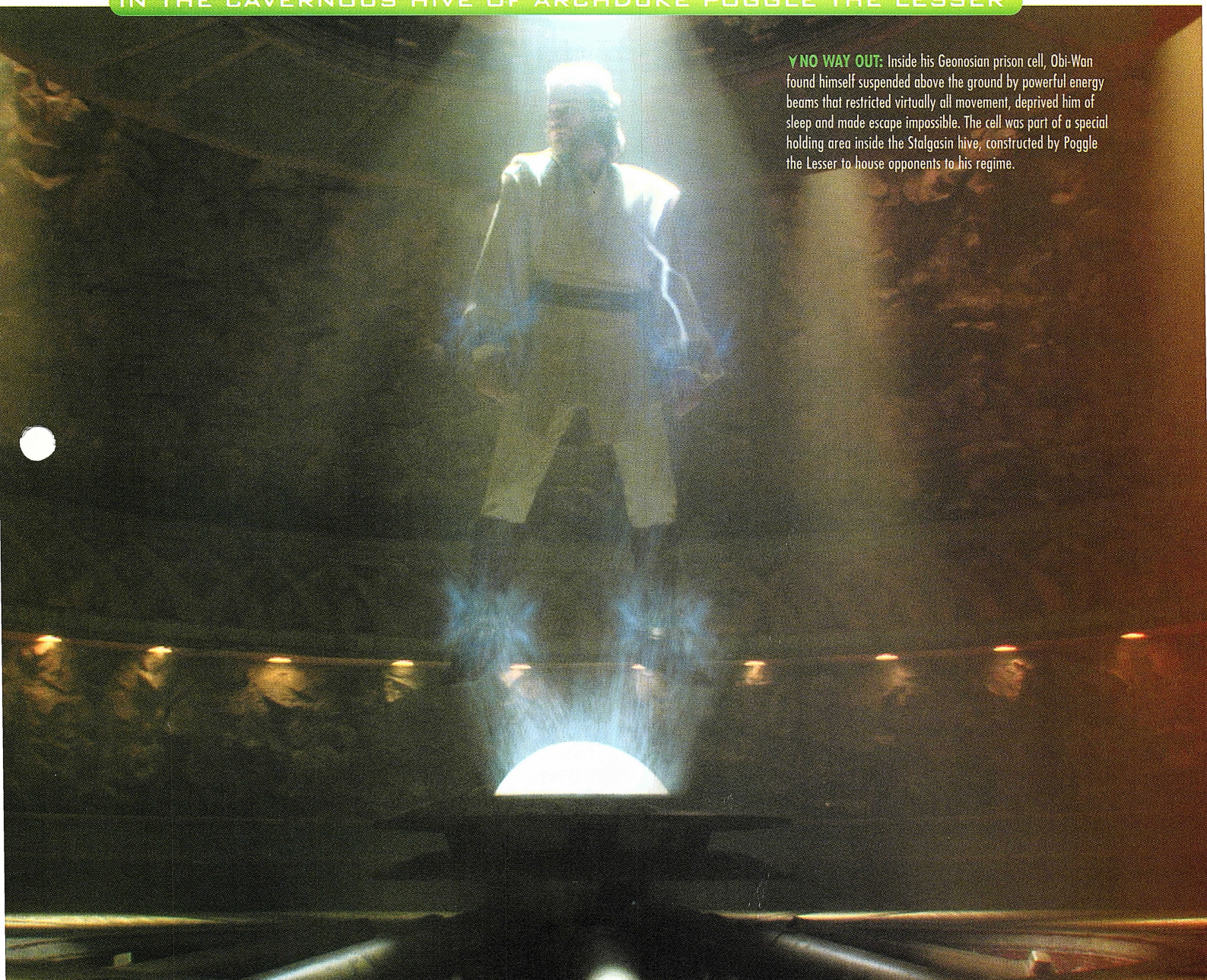
22 BBY GEO7



THE GEONOSIAN PRISON CELL

THE CELL THAT HELD OBI-WAN KENOBI WAS ONE OF MANY
IN THE CAVERNOUS HIVE OF ARCHDUKE POGGLE THE LESSER

Y NO WAY OUT: Inside his Geonosian prison cell, Obi-Wan found himself suspended above the ground by powerful energy beams that restricted virtually all movement, deprived him of sleep and made escape impossible. The cell was part of a special holding area inside the Stalgasin hive, constructed by Poggle the Lesser to house opponents to his regime.



The Stalgasin hive ruled by the Geonosian Archduke Poggle the Lesser contained a cavernous detention block constructed at the Archduke's behest to hold anyone who might pose a threat to his regime. Inside the block, a long and winding corridor was lined with cells, each designed to

hold a single occupant. These were special cells for special prisoners. Prior to the arrival of Obi-Wan Kenobi, they had held high-ranking victims of the Archduke's many purges.

Cells of the type that Obi-Wan was able to study for rather longer than he would have preferred were at least given a

▲ IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO SECURE YOUR RELEASE:

Obi-Wan's refusal to join forces with Count Dooku meant that there was to be no easy way out of the Geonosian prison cell for the Jedi. The technology used to imprison Obi-Wan was immune to interference from Jedi telekinetic powers.



basic decor. Dome-shaped, their walls were largely unfinished, the rough rock left visible and bereft of the smooth finish of rock paste. The floors were covered in a non-conductive metal grill. The traditional Stalgasin criss-crossing blades motif seen almost everywhere in the hive was also present in a wide band that swept around the rooms. Only the abrupt, pointed archway of the heavy security doors interrupted this.

CLOSELY GUARDED

Outside the cells, drone guards were posted to patrol the corridor. However, escape from the special cells was



impossible, as Obi-Wan discovered. Nevertheless, when the Jedi Knight was held captive, there were extra guards stationed outside his cell. Archduke Poggle the Lesser was not going to take anything for granted with this particular prisoner.

SHACKLES AND CHAINS

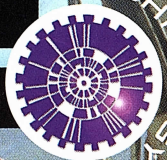
Before being left to contemplate his fate, Obi-Wan was fitted with manacles. There was no chain on these metal cuffs, however – nothing so prosaic. They were welded shut around his wrists and ankles, leaving no mechanism for a Jedi's telekinetic powers to interfere with.

In the centre of the circular cell, repulsorlift emitter assemblies projected from the ceiling and floor. Obi-Wan was lifted into the projected field by his guards and found himself firmly held in mid air, rotating slowly. As the guards stepped away, a second field was activated. Blue light enshrouded the suspended prisoner, and the field crackled with bursts of energy. These focused on the manacles, but also ran over and around Obi-Wan's body. So long as he didn't struggle, the shocks from the intermittent energy flashes were bearable.

The cell was designed to keep prisoners disorientated and to deprive them of sleep. Even for a Jedi, able to sink into a pain-suppressing meditation, this was an uncomfortable experience. When Count Dooku visited Obi-Wan, attempting to bring him over to the dark side, he found that Qui-Gon Jinn's former apprentice was as strong and defiant as he had been when he was first placed in the special cells of the Stalgasin hive.

'ACTIVATE THE DROIDS'

32 BBY GUN6



ENERGY SHIELD TECHNOLOGY

ALTHOUGH SEEMINGLY SIMPLE, THE DESIGN OF THE GUNGAN ENERGY SHIELD WAS EXTREMELY COMPLEX, MAKING IT HIGHLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO ATTACK OR EVEN MALFUNCTION

A sphere of energy up to a kilometre wide, each Gungan energy shield was centred around two mutually dependant assemblies – an energy emitter and a second assembly (commonly referred to as a drum).

The shield itself was created by directing a stream of energy from the emitter and into the drum. Once it had entered the drum, the energy beam would ricochet around it, building up pressure until it erupted from a release chamber. The resulting pillar of energy would then rise to a point where the force of its release was equal to atmospheric pressure. At this stage it would begin to fan out to form a dome of liquid energy.

The height the pillar reached and the extent to which the shield stretched could be controlled by a Gungan seated

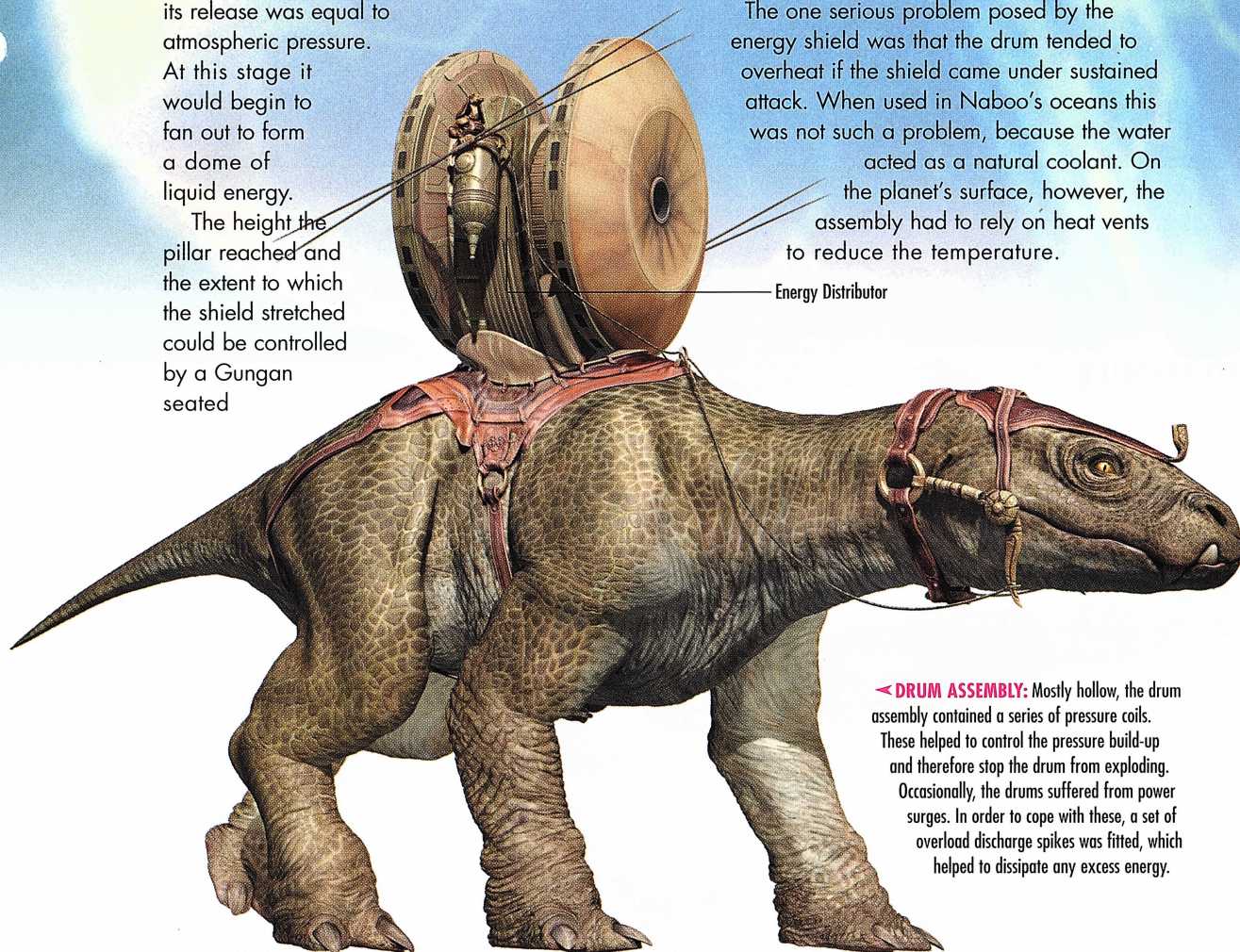
next to the drum. By altering the pressure inside the drum, this Gungan was able to regulate the height obtained by the energy pillar.

FAMBAA POWER

The two generator assemblies were placed on the backs of a pair of fambaa, large, ungainly creatures long used by the Gungans. In order for the shield to work, the fambaa had to walk in single file. Fortunately, they have a natural tendency to do this anyway, so getting the two creatures into the correct position was not difficult.

The one serious problem posed by the energy shield was that the drum tended to overheat if the shield came under sustained attack. When used in Naboo's oceans this was not such a problem, because the water acted as a natural coolant. On the planet's surface, however, the assembly had to rely on heat vents to reduce the temperature.

Energy Distributor

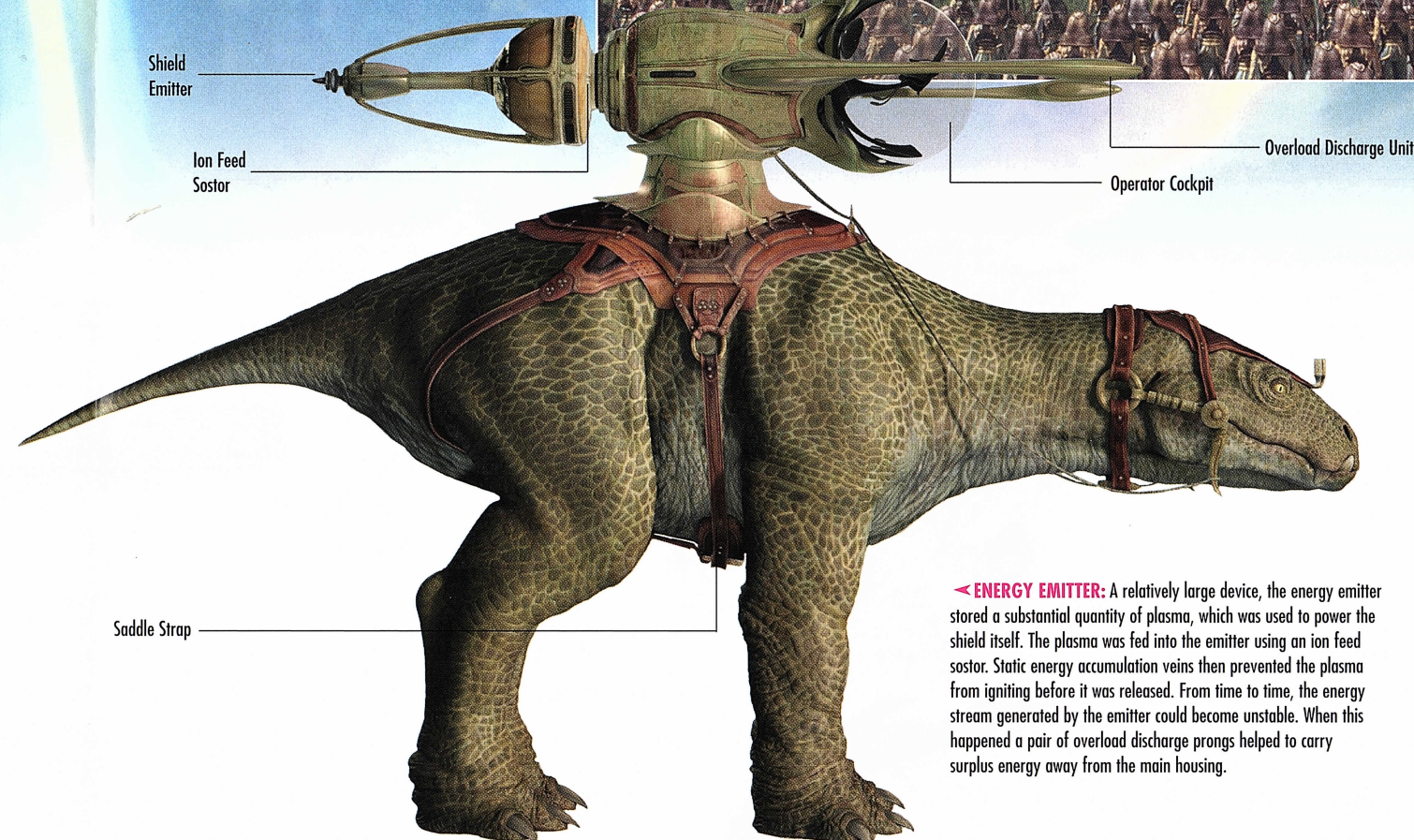


◀ **DRUM ASSEMBLY:** Mostly hollow, the drum assembly contained a series of pressure coils. These helped to control the pressure build-up and therefore stop the drum from exploding. Occasionally, the drums suffered from power surges. In order to cope with these, a set of overload discharge spikes was fitted, which helped to dissipate any excess energy.



▶ **STEADY, STEADY:** The Gungan Grand Army demonstrated considerable bravery and discipline as it withstood first the Trade Federation bombardment and then the advance of the battle droid legions.

▶ **SHIELDS UP:** The Gungan shields afforded a safe haven from the heavy artillery barrage fired by the Trade Federation's battle tanks. The energy from the incoming shots was distributed around the shield.



Shield Emitter

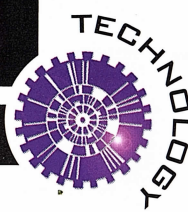
Ion Feed Sostor

Saddle Strap

Overload Discharge Unit

Operator Cockpit

◀ **ENERGY EMITTER:** A relatively large device, the energy emitter stored a substantial quantity of plasma, which was used to power the shield itself. The plasma was fed into the emitter using an ion feed sostor. Static energy accumulation veins then prevented the plasma from igniting before it was released. From time to time, the energy stream generated by the emitter could become unstable. When this happened a pair of overload discharge prongs helped to carry surplus energy away from the main housing.



'ENERGIZE THE SHIELDS!'

32 BBY GUN5

GUNGAN ENERGY SHIELD

THE GUNGAN ARMY WAS PRIMARILY A DEFENSIVE FORCE
AND THE GUNGAN ENERGY SHIELD WAS ITS MOST
IMPORTANT DEFENSIVE COMPONENT

CENTURIES ago, the Gungan race was disunited. Split into numerous, often antagonistic, tribes, they were frequently involved in skirmishes, battles and even wholesale wars. As a result, the Gungans began to develop extensive military weaponry.

After the different factions gradually began to unite, the Gungans decided to maintain a standing military presence in the form of a Grand Army. In part, they did this out of a sense of tradition, but there was also a practical motivation – the Gungan cities were occasionally beset by giant sea monsters, and the army was needed to drive these creatures away.

It was fortunate for Naboo that the Gungans had retained this force, for without the involvement of the Grand Army in the famous Grass Plains Battle, Queen Amidala's plan to defeat the Trade Federation invaders would have surely failed.

KEY DEFENCE

In many ways the Grand Army was a defensive force and the Gungan energy shield was vital if the troops were to maintain this protective posture. Comprising a kind of liquid energy that was just as effective under water as it was above, the shield was capable of repelling the most powerful energy bolts, as well as fast-moving objects like the droid army's STAPs.

The shield was also able to resist larger, slower objects, such as the Trade Federation's AAT battle tanks or even the ferocious sando aqua monster that dwelt in Naboo's underground oceans. However, it was not able to deter smaller, slower-moving battle droid troops that marched towards the Gungans as the battle developed.

SAFETY BUBBLE

The use of the energy shield was absolutely central to the Gungans' military strategy as they went into battle against Trade Federation forces. General Ceel – the leader of the Grand Army – knew that they could not withstand the Trade

ENERGIZING THE SHIELDS:

As the Trade Federation forces appeared over the ridge ahead of the Gungans, General Ceel ordered the shields to energize. Giant beams of energy shot out from the emitters into the drums and then up into protective shells.

Overload Discharge
Spine

Drum Assembly

Saddle Mount

A BEHIND THE SHIELD: The Gungans were safe from the Trade Federation's heavy artillery when the shields were up. However, they were not immune from the legions of battle droids.

< YHOT WORK: The shields could not be kept running for long periods, as the emitter and drum warmed up under fire. The heat would eventually become too much for the fambaas.

Federation's heavy artillery without it. Produced by generators that were located on top of a series of fambaa, the use of the energy shield effectively rendered this artillery ineffective.

DROID ASSAULT

As a consequence, the Trade Federation was forced to commit its battle droid forces, and thereby allow the Gungan army to fight the invaders at close quarters. General Ceel knew this was the only way they could

hope to defeat their aggressors, or even just prolong the battle enough for Queen Amidala to capture the Trade Federation's Viceroy Nute Gunray.

Unfortunately, once the droid army had penetrated the energy shield, the generators were susceptible to attack. Once disabled, the Trade Federation's artillery would become a factor once again. Realizing this, General Ceel arrayed the Grand Army in front of the fambaas. However, the size of the droid army meant it was only a matter of time before the shields were knocked out.



"ALERT ALL COMMANDS, DEPLOY THE FLEET"

IMPERIAL SUPER STAR DESTROYER

THE FIRST OF FOUR SUPER STAR DESTROYERS, THE *EXECUTOR* WAS THE FLAGSHIP OF DARTH VADER, AND THE DEADLY INSTRUMENT OF THE EMPEROR'S DARK WILL THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY

EIGHT kilometres long, bristling with 1,000 projectile and energy weapon arrays, carrying over 300 auxiliary ships and almost 40,000 troops, *Executor* was the first of the Super Star Destroyers.

The standard crew for a ship of this class was 279,144 personnel, of whom 1,590 were gunnery officers. Along with two wings of TIE fighters totalling 144 craft, the ships had 200 miscellaneous combat and support craft, a force of All-Terrain Armoured Transports and scout walkers, and 38,000 stormtroopers. The Super Star Destroyer's cavernous cargo storage could manage another 250,000 tonnes of material in addition to six years' worth of consumables and supplies for up to 300,000 crew members.

The arrowhead shape of the Super Star Destroyer was dominated by a central portion of the hull where the key habitat, command, control and operations decks of the ship were situated.

The vessel mounted 500 turbolaser arrays of both standard and heavy types, along with 250 concussion missile launch tubes and 250 more ion cannon batteries. In addition, the ship fielded 40 high-energy Phylon Q7 tractor beam projector units.

FAMILY OF GIANTS

A second Super Star Destroyer, the *Lusankya*, was secretly constructed on the surface of Coruscant, beneath a large part of the cityscape. Built under the direction of Ysanne Isard, the *Lusankya* served as a prison complex for several years before Isard launched the ship – with devastating results on the planet's surface.

These vessels would be remembered as terrible icons of the Emperor's domination. They were only to be overshadowed by the monstrous *Eclipse*-class Star Destroyer built some six years after Palpatine's death at Endor.

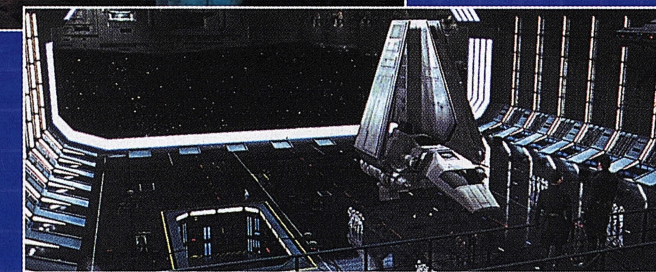
DEATH SQUADRON:

Lord Vader commanded his combat operations unit, Death Squadron, from the *Executor*. The force had five Imperial-class Star Destroyers.

NAVAL ELITE: The crew of the *Executor* were the cream of the Imperial Navy. The honour of serving on the ship was balanced by the risks of working with Lord Vader.

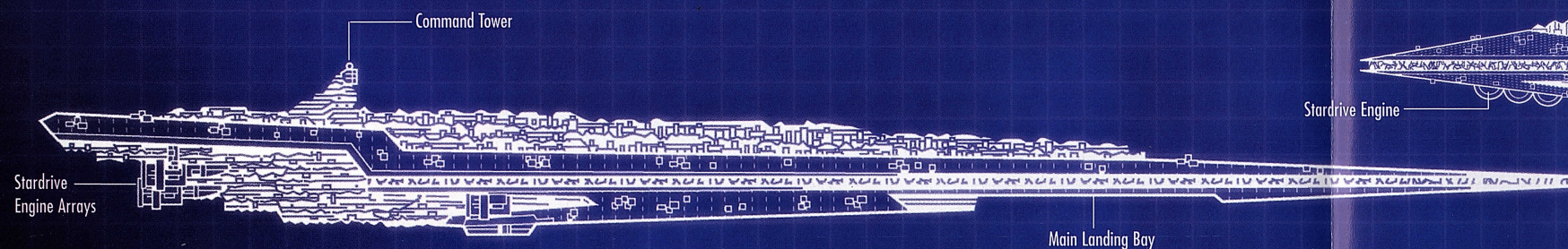
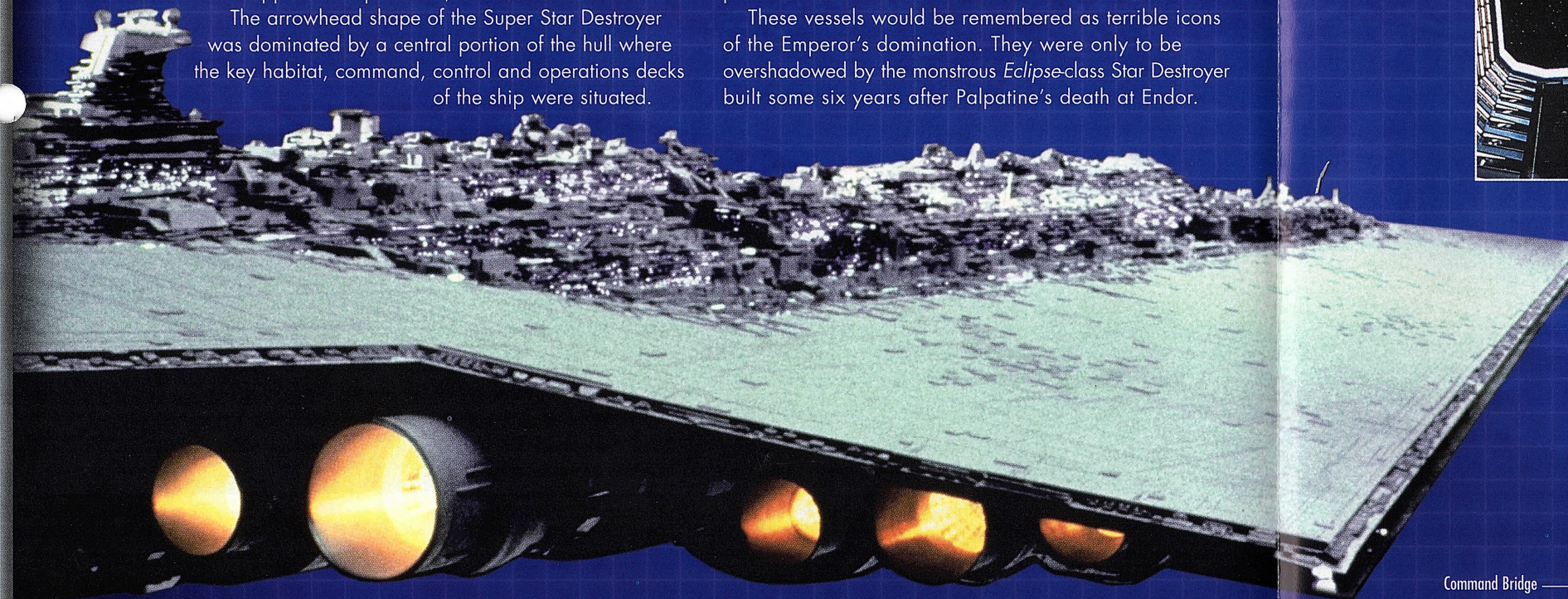


VADER'S SHIP: As well as a meditation room and a personal audience chamber for communicating with the Emperor, Vader's flagship included a huge docking bay so smaller vessels could land and take off from the Star Destroyer.

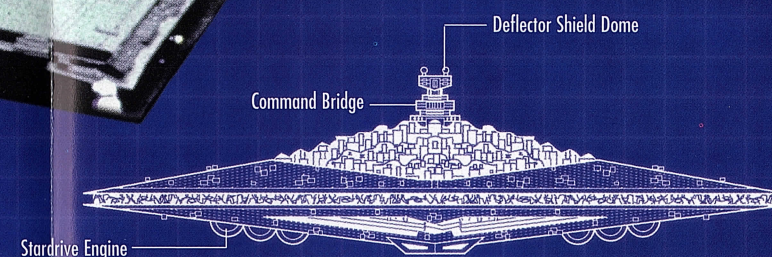


SHIP'S COMPANY:

Darth Vader's own Star Destroyer was a vast craft that possessed astonishing firepower. As such it required a huge personnel.



SIDE VIEW

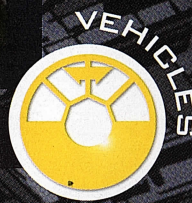


FRONT VIEW

VEHICLE SPECIFICATION

TYPE:	KUAT DRIVE YARDS SUPER STAR DESTROYER
CREW:	279,144 PERSONNEL
LENGTH:	12,800 METRES
SPEED:	40 MGLT
AFFILIATION:	IMPERIAL STARFLEET



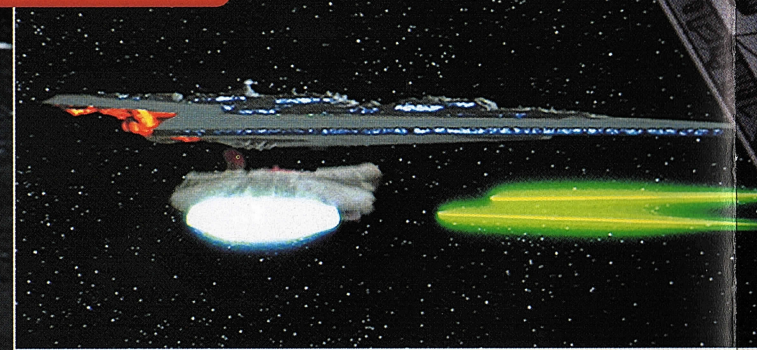


"CONCENTRATE ALL FIRE ON THAT SUPER STAR DESTROYER!"

EXECUTOR

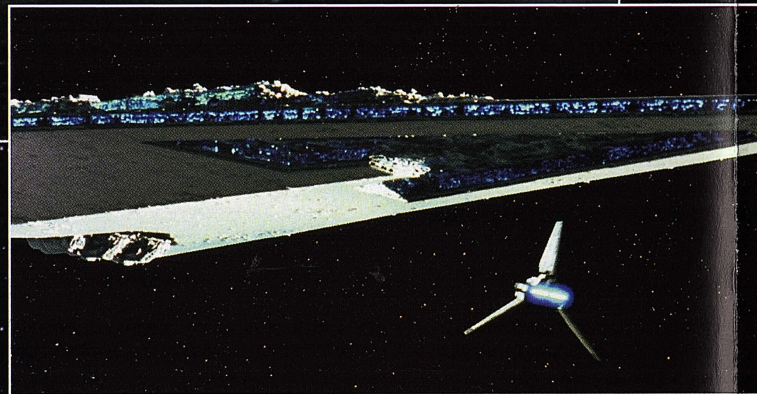
DARTH VADER'S SUPER STAR DESTROYER

THE EXECUTOR WAS A MONUMENT TO THE EMPEROR'S
ALMOST UNLIMITED POWER AND RESOURCES, BUILT
TO CREATE TERROR AND FORCE SUBMISSION



▲ ENGINES: Thirteen thruster exhaust bells were required to move the huge Super Star Destroyer through space at sublight velocities of around 40 MGLT. The colossal energy wash from the thrust was so deadly that an unshielded ship passing too close to the wake of the *Executor* would instantly be cooked by the radiation.

▼ TIE FIGHTERS: Operating in its capacity as a fleet carrier, the *Executor* had two full wings of TIE fighters on board – an impressive force of 144 ships. The vessel also carried several other combat units, including gunships and armed shuttles used to transport senior officers and dignitaries.



THE *Executor* was designed by Kuat Drive Yards' Lira Wessex, the creator of the notorious *Imperial*-class Star Destroyer. The vessel was assembled beneath a shroud of secrecy at the Fondor shipyards, under the command of Admiral Griff.

A battleship of incredible dimensions, more than five times the size of an *Imperial*-class craft, *Executor* was capable of inflicting horrific damage on enemy vessels and laying waste to planetary surfaces. The ship was even able to subdue an entire star system. While tacticians could argue that a force of smaller Star Destroyers could accomplish the same mission more quickly and more efficiently, it was Emperor Palpatine's intent to use the Super Star Destroyers to win a propaganda victory as well as a military one. The sight of a million-tonne ship like *Executor* pulling into orbit was enough to demoralize a whole planetary population.

SYMBOL OF POWER

After its launch from Fondor in the wake of the Battle of Yavin, Griff guided *Executor's* shakedown cruise on just such a propaganda mission. The purpose was to demonstrate that the loss of the Death Star was a fluke, and that the Empire still ruled the star-lanes. Griff first took the ship to Laakteen Depot, laying waste to the Rebel outpost there, before heading to Massassi, the fourth moon of Yavin. The Rebel Alliance base on Yavin 4 was caught in the midst of an evacuation, and only the use of several rare

power gems allowed Rebel ships to cut through *Executor's* shields and slow the warship down. Griff's attempt to follow the retreating Rebels failed when he miscalculated a hyperspace jump. The resultant mis-jump caused a collision that wiped out three Star Destroyers. Griff was demoted and command of the *Executor* was given to Admiral Ozzel. In turn, Ozzel was under the command of Darth Vader, who made *Executor* his flagship.

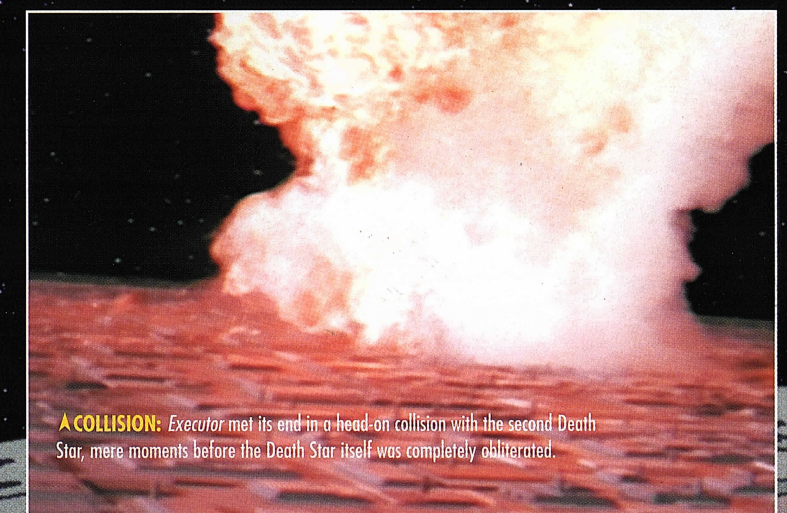
Darth Vader controlled his personal fleet – the so-called 'Death Squadron' – from the *Executor* throughout their assault on Hoth. During that operation, Vader was displeased with the conduct of Admiral Ozzel and executed him, simultaneously promoting Ozzel's second-in-command, Captain Piett, to replace him.

THE TITAN FALLS

Executor remained Vader's flagship until the Battle of Endor, when the ship was destroyed in a catastrophic collision with the second Death Star. During the conflict, Admiral Piett had taken up position close to the Forest Moon of Endor. However, the Rebels led an assault on the *Executor*

▲ COMMAND BRIDGE: The nerve centre of the colossal Super Star Destroyer was the main bridge, where a permanent team of controllers worked in shifts to operate navigation, shield and weapons systems.

at point-blank range, first destroying the ship's deflector shield domes and then striking at the command centre. In a suicide run, A-wing pilot Arvel Crynyd flew his damaged ship into the bridge. With its controls shattered, *Executor* was caught in the Death Star's gravity well and struck the space station with enough force to obliterate the massive ship.



▲ COLLISION: *Executor* met its end in a head-on collision with the second Death Star, mere moments before the Death Star itself was completely obliterated.